

No. 544

25 February 1948

CHINESE PRESS REVIEW
The American Consulate-General, Peiping, China

EDITORIAL COMMENTS:Editorials:

Hsin Min Pao (Pro-Kuomintang), Peiping
25 February 1948

THE SOURCE OF THE RUMORS OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

There is always a source and an objective for any rumor that is spread. Rumors about peace negotiations are certainly not exceptional.

The several speeches made by Ambassador Stuart may be either regarded as a refutation of the rumor, or as an objection to a misinterpretation of the rumor. But the gist of the matter lies in an investigation as to why should Ambassador Stuart speak just on these days. The source of the rumors about peace negotiations will reveal themselves after we have answered the problem as to why Ambassador Stuart should speak.

In this connection, the Shanghai Evening Post has made a very explicit explanation in its editorial "Frank Advice". The said paper stated: "Stuart's statement may be regarded as interference with Chinese domestic affairs. This is certainly true to some extent. When America gives her money, paid in by her people in the form of taxes, to extend aid to China and to enhance the friendly relationship between China and America, Ambassador Stuart is certainly entitled to say something when China so far has not presented any concrete measures of self-support. . . ."

Chinese high ranking officials stated half-heartedly that such rumors are not worth our attention, quite disregarding the fact that these rumors of peace negotiations came from the American UP News Agency. If we add the above "footnote" of the American Evening Post to the UP dispatch, we can readily predict that there is no way of prohibiting the spread of rumors about peace negotiations of a like nature hereafter. Some people are of the opinion that rumors about peace negotiations constitute either a new turn in Sino-American relationship, or the beginning of unhappiness. We think they are greatly mistaken. Such rumors only signify a further consolidation of the friendly relationship between America and China. For, should America have not decided to extend a loan to China, Ambassador Stuart would not have taken the trouble to make the statement.

What America has been asked of China is not confined to an insistence that China should pledge that the American aid will not be wasted. America has her own ideas about China, which are not a secret,

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but indicate a hope that the European Recovery Plan may apply to China. In the past, America reiterated once and again that the aid-to-Europe project differs in nature from the aid-to-China project. But where lies the difference? It lies in the fact that the aid-to-Europe project is of a productive nature, while the aid-to-China project is only of a relief nature. America has been expecting that conditions in China may be improved to provide circumstances where in America may throw in her productive loans. According to an American estimate, with the gigantic productivity of America employed in a new surrounding in China where production can be carried on, China will be able to take a new shape within a short period of twelve to fifteen months. If an lapse of several more years is granted, then there would be the greatest chance of frustrating the spread of Communism. This constitutes a more fundamental reason for the rise of rumors about peace negotiations.

It is true that rumors about peace negotiations actually are not worth our attention, in view of the fact that all rumors are actually an exaggeration of a certain "force". If we exaggerate, we will only strengthen the function of that certain "force". In this connection, we may cite the common proverb that "we will certainly be able to achieve our secondary objective should we aspire to achieve our highest objective". (Complete translation)

Shih Chieh Jih Pao (KMT CC Clique), Peiping
24 February 1948

COMMENTING ON SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIPS AND THE RUMORS ABOUT
PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN CHINA

Following the breaking of diplomatic usage by J. Leighton Stuart, the American Ambassador to China, in issuing a personal message to the Chinese people, the UP News Agency sent out a dispatch reporting the alleged Soviet proposal for mediation in the internal strife in China. Although we do not quite agree with those over sensitive observers who regard these two incidents as related it, is an undeniable fact that the Chinese internal problem is being subjugated to international influences. Leighton Stuart once said last year: "If America and the Soviet Union could work together, the Chinese Kuomintang and the Communist Party would also be able to treat each other well." Shao Li-tsu, secretary-general of the National People's Political Council, stated the other day that "peace in China will be realized through negotiations only when America and the Soviet Union work together in the mediation efforts." We are of the opinion that such comments are most near to the truth.

America and the Soviet Union have never achieved good understanding and cooperation in the Far East. As was pointed out by Park, the American expert on Far Eastern problems, "as a result of mutual suspicion and fear between these two great powers, the water in the 'kettle of China' has been made to boil continuously while thousands upon thousands

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of Chinese people are made to suffer. If we want that this kettle of water is not to boil, then we have to endeavor that the suspicion and fear between the Soviet Union and America should be removed earlier. But such a possibility is very small, judging from present international conditions.

But there is another point we must understand, In view of the various factors affecting the China problem, mediation in the Chinese internal dispute by any single power, either America or Soviet Union, will not be successful. The failure of the American mediation is a historical lesson. It was due to over-confidence in the mediation pledges that the Chinese government relaxed its preparations and vigilance and provided the Communists with a chance for rest, re-disposition and expansion. Therefore even if the alleged Soviet mediation offer is not a rumor, we should not give our consent very lightly. In short, in view of the lack of mutual faith and cooperation between the Soviet Union and America, any action taken independently either by the former or the latter would only serve to render more complicated or to further aggravate the present situation in China.

We may imagine that there is no possibility for an improvement in the relationship between America and the Soviet Union in the near future. Anyhow, if we cannot think of a way of improving the present critical situation through our own efforts, no development will be favorable to us. In view of her geographical position and her traditional practice of peace and moderation, China should have been able to serve as bridge over the Soviet Union and America. But the situation today does not allow her to do so. Since the government has placed the suppression of the rebellion before everything else, it must show military accomplishments within a definite length of time. We must use our own force to decide whether we should have peace or war and must no longer expect any other power to mediate for us. (Abridged translation)

Editorials Not Translated

One Word of Advice to the Movement for Raising Money for the Teachers and Students. - CHING SHIH JIH PAO
 Self Reliance and Self Introspection - HSIN SHENG PAO
 The Way to Stop Rumors - PEIPING SHIH PAO
 Measures to Overcome the Crisis in Manchuria - PEIPING JIH PAO
 Transfusions of Blood to the Front - KUO MIN HSIN PAO
 The Manchurian Problem at the Moment. The Conference of America, England and France. - HUA PEI JIH PAO

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NEWS ITEMS:Military News:

Ching Shih jih Pao (KMT CC Clique), Peiping
24 February 1948

MAO TSE-TUNG AT MICHI DIRECTING MILITARY OPERATIONS: BANDITS
ATTEMPT TO ATTACK YULIN AND YEN N

(Ningshia, February 23, Central News Agency) -- It is learned that the bandits in North Shensi recently have effected some new troop deployments with the main bandit forces led by Ho Lung, Peng Teh-huai and Wang Chen posted in the Michi, Syitch and Chingchien sectors, which forces together with the abducted people's soldiers total over 60,000 men in all. Bandit Mao Tse-tung is reportedly staying at a small village at Michi directing military operations. Their purpose appears to be to launch a further attack on Yulin and to stage a counter-offensive against Yen-an. The government forces on all routes are now maintaining a tight defense of their own positions.

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(Taiyuan, February 23, Central News Agency) -- The district corps of Linfen day before yesterday launched a mopping up campaign in the western part of Tumen, in the outer perimeter of Linfen, and fought furiously for one hour with the bandits infesting the area. The bandits were finally routed and flew in a western direction. After recovering ten-odd strong points in Tumen, including Tsikuo and Chienpei, the forces continued their mopping up operations on an enlarged scale toward the west. (Complete translation)

Peiping Shih Pao (San Min Chu I Youth Corps), Peiping
25 February 1948

BANDITS IN NORTH SHANSI ATTEMPT TO INVADE TSOYUN: GOVERNMENT FORCES
IN TATUNG SCORE VICTORIES IN MOPPING-UP OPERATIONS

(Tatung, February 24, Cheng Chung News Agency) -- The 7th and 13th Regiments of the First Sub-Ward of the Bandit Shansi-Hopei Area, which have been occupying villages adjacent to the Hunyun hsien city, advanced day before yesterday to Ssuchiahui, over 60 li southeast of Tatung, in coordination with 3,000 men of the Bandit Detachment of Tatung. The bandits were severely beaten by our mopping-up forces and flew back to Puhuan.

The 44th, 45th and 46th Regiments of the Bandit Suiyuan-Mongolian Area in concert with three bandits' regiments from Pinglu, totalling over 6,000 strong, have proceeded to the Liangchiahhsienfang sector via Yuyu, Nanwei and Pingpu. It looks as if they are going to launch an attack against Yuncheng. (Abridged translation)
